(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Central Government that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has estimated the cost of rehabilitation of earthquake affected people which struck Maharashtra recently, to the tune of Rs. 900 crores; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to help the State to meet this huge cost of rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Government of Maharasntra have prepared a proposal for tre Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme with an estimated cost of Rs. 1088.6 crores in the sectors of housing and infrastructure, economic and social rehabilitation and other related programmes.

(b) A World Bank loan assistance is being negotiated to finance the rehabilitation programme.

Visit of Central team to Maharashtra to assess earthquake losses

2085. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Team had been sent to Maharashtra to asses the earthquake loss in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the composition of the Central Team;

(c) what was the assessment about the loss made by this Team; and

(d) how Government propose to deal with this expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A Central Team was deputed to Maharashtra to assess the extent of demage and the requirement of relief and rehabilitation in the wake of earthquake in Maharashtra.

(b) The Team was led by the Central Relief Commissioner in the Ministry of Agricultural and consisted of representatives from the Minitries/Departments of Urban Development, Rural Development, Welfare, Women and Child Development, Surface Transport, Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare.

(c) As the Central Team's visit was soon after the concurrence of calamity and the entire State machinery was too deeply involved in relief operations, no reliable estimate of damages could be made at that point of time.

Subsequently, Maharashtra Government has prepared an Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme for being posed to the World Bank in which, the loss of property as a result of earthquake has been estimated at about Rs. 300 crores.

(d) A World Bank loan assistance is being negotiated in order to finance the rehabilitation programmes in the affected areas involving housing and infra structure, economic and social rehabilitation and related sector.

Loss due to rain in Pondicherry

2086. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent report in a section of the Press that heavy rains claimed many lives and damaged properties in Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the names of districts that had been affected by heavy rains causing destruction to properties and heavy loss of lives to poor people;

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitates the affected people to safer places; and

(d) the compensation, if any, paid to the people who lost their properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Pondicherry and Karaikal regions of the Union Territory of Pondicherry

were affected by heavy rains/floods in the 3rd week of November and 1st week of December, 1993. While substantial damage to public and private properties has occurred, no human life has been lost in these floods.

(c) Pondicherry Administration evacuated the people from coastal villages and low lying areas and temporarily resettled them in evacuation camps. The Administration operated 116 camps and supplied 2.70 lakh free food packets to about 62000 evacuees.

(d) There is no provision for payment of any compensation to the victims. However, financial assistance will be extended by the U.T. Administration to the affected farmers and others for restoring damaged huts and for raising fresh cultivation etc. according to certain scales of assistance.

Self-sfficiency in oil seeds

2087. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Experts have expressed confidence that India will achieve self-sufficiency in oil seeds in a couple of years;

(b) if so, whether under the proposed scheme cultivation of Mustard was spreading in North-Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Oil Palm is being tried in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Southern parts of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, whether these measures have achieved good results of production of palmoline;

(d) to what extent mustard Oil and Oil Palm production has increased in these States; and

(e) to what extent it has succeeded in achieving self-sufficiency in oil seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The gestation period for oil palm is about four years. Full maturity takes about 7 years. Therefore, production of palm oil (Palmolein) can be expected by the turn of this century. However, the production of mustard has increased in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(e) The production of oilseeds has increased from 11.27 in 1986-87 to 20.27 million tonnes in 1992-93 contributing to slef-sufficiency.

Production of rice

2088. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice production has increased after introduction of high yielding varieties;

(b) if so, whether to popularise the cultivation of rice in the country a Central Sector Minikits Programme of rice was started in 1972;

(c) if so, to what extent this programme has helped popularization of HYVs seeds;

(d) whether Special Rice Production Programme, Integrated Programme for Rice Development have also contributed in achieving these levels of rice production; and

(e) to what extent the production of rice was achieved in 1991-92, 1992-93 and to what extent the prospects of rice have further strengthened during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The implementaion of Rice Minikit Programme has helped in popularising the culivation of location specific High Yielding Varieties. Area under HYVs seed is estimated to have spread over about 28 million hectares, during 1992-93.

(d) Yes, Sir.